

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Department of Community Services



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe  
Harford"

#### EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future"

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining  
Harford's Prosperity"

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our  
Environment"

#### QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 12, 2013

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### **Department of Community Services Office of Drug Control Policy Launches New Alcohol and Drug Education Program *Above the Influence***

(Bel Air, MD) - - Based on a 2010 Youth Commission Survey, 49% of youth grades 6-12 indicated they felt strongly about the need for alcohol and drug abuse educational program and initiatives. In response to this information, the Harford County Department of Community Services began planning a program to fill this need. On January 22, 2013 the *Above the Influence Alcohol and Drug Education Program*, a new prevention program, was launched.

The *Above the Influence Alcohol & Drug Education Program* was attended by eight Harford County youth. The morning portion of the program focused on Alcohol education and featured a victim impact speaker, a discussion on the effects of alcohol & drug use on the family, as well as some interactive activities. A local mother who lost her daughter due to drunk driving shared her personal story with the attendees. The afternoon portion of the program focused on drug education with an emphasis on marijuana, synthetic drugs, and prescription drug abuse. The Harford County Sheriff's Office K9 unit provided a demonstration and spoke with the attendees about the legal aspect of underage drinking, drug use, and driving under the influence.

The next *Above the Influence* class will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013. There is no cost to attend the program and lunch and snacks are provided at no charge to attendees. Space is limited. To register your child for the prevention class, or to learn more about the program, please contact the Office of Drug Control Policy at 410-638-3333 or [odcp@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:odcp@harfordcountymd.gov).

The Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy is a division within the Department of Community Services. The Harford County Department of Community Services was established in 1979 via Executive Order and works daily to meet the needs of our seniors, youth, persons with disabilities and those struggling to overcome addiction. The Department works with federal, state, local and private agencies to ensure our county continues to evolve and remains dedicated to providing the best possible services for our citizens and community.

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"Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future"

